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FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT EDITION

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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT

Issue No 116

Available from Wednesday,
December 2, 2009

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the right choice

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SWALE TOPS BINGE DRINKING TABLES

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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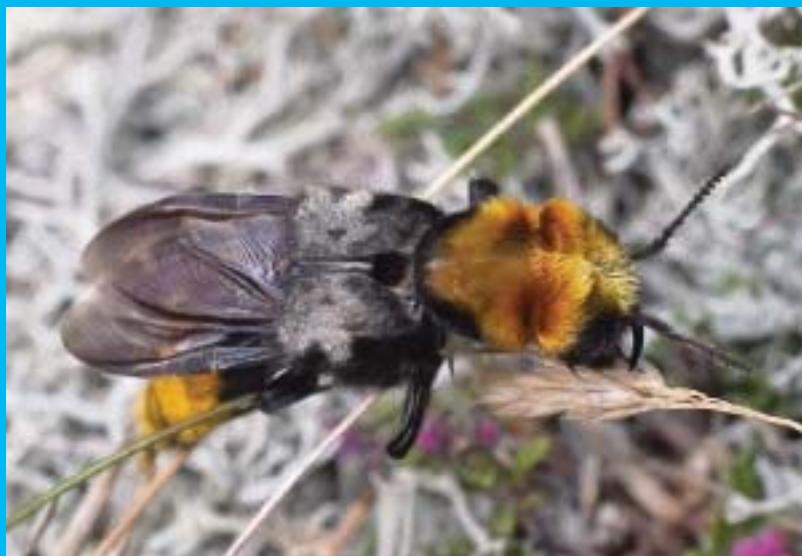


STREET THEATRE: Cinderella cast take to the high street to promote the Swale panto

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ISSN 1753-1233



RESERVED FOR BUG LIFE

The wonders of nature never cease on the Isle of Sheppey. The rare Maid of Kent beetle (Emus hirtus) can be found scurrying among the shallow pools and mudflats at RSPB Elmley.

The nature reserve is one of only two sites in the country providing a habitat to the invertebrate. The Maid of Kent isn't lonely on its island home. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds announced that out of 13,400 species recorded on its reserves across the country more than half were insects - birds accounted for less than three per cent.

■ BY JILL HURST

SWALE has the highest level of binge drinking in east Kent costing the health service tens of thousands of pounds and taking beds from the sick according to health officials.

The news comes after NHS chiefs and police held an emergency public drink debate in Maidstone to tackle the problem of alcohol abuse in south east England.

Latest figures, published by the Association of Public Health Observatories, reveal Swale has the worst binge drinking record in eastern and coastal Kent ahead of Canterbury, Thanet, Dover, Ashford and Shepway.

Sixteen per cent of the population are classified as binge drinkers with almost 1,300 alcohol-related hospital admissions each year.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's lead commissioner for healthy lifestyles, Gerald Bassett, said alcohol abuse Swale was on the up.

He said: "Many people slip into a pattern of drinking without realising they are having one or two drinks too many. While most people enjoy alcohol safely and sensibly, the increase in binge drinking is a growing concern.

"It is recommended that men drink no more than three to four units and women two to four units on a regular basis.

"Any small increase can have serious effects on your long-term health, such as increasing the risk of memory loss, some cancers, stroke, while also affecting your sleep and making you put on weight.

"Many people do not realise that a seeming tolerance to drink is actually a warning sign

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TOP TV CLIPS



1 How double-deckers find a new life with award-winning South East Coachworks. Search 'coachworks'



2 A unique Christmas experience at the Hop Farm – take a visit to Santa's Magical Kingdom. Search 'Santa'



3 All the build-up and team news for the Gills' weekend game with manager Mark Stimson. Search 'Gills'

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Iron Age find causes quite a stink for island

■ BY JILL HURST

ARCHEOLOGISTS working on the Isle of Sheppey have discovered an enormous pit of excrement dating from the Iron Age.

The unsavoury time capsule, which experts say could provide valuable insights into the lifestyle of the island's ancient inhabitants, was discovered at Warden Bay Road, Leysdown, during a dig which also recovered a make-up kit, brooches, ceramic vessels and human bone dating back to the Bronze Age.

Archaeologist Andy Margate said they knew the site was significant early on in the dig.

"Clearly there was no sewage system back then so there wasn't anywhere for it to go."

"It was evident what we were dealing with. It's likely ditches were built around the settlement because of the abundance of faeces."

"Essentially they lived on top of mounds of human waste."

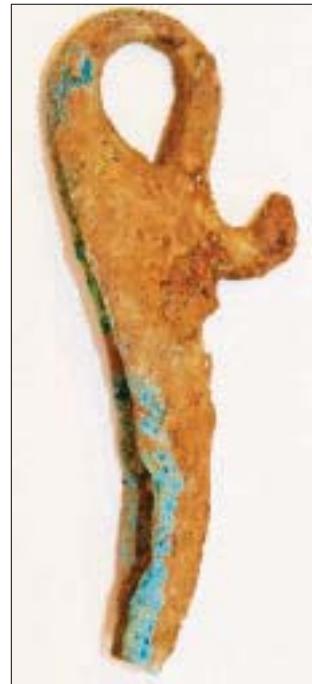
"It's an exciting find. Working as an archaeologist in the summer is great, but it can get a bit cold in the winter so this has kept us going."

"We knew what we'd found, but everything is sent back to base in Brighton where it is environmentally analysed. It is what it is."

"On the adjacent site we uncovered a late Iron Age or early Roman funeral pit, containing three fragmented ceramic vessels associated with cremated human bone, up to six badly corroded copper alloy brooches and a cosmetic set comprising of a copper-alloy pestle mortar."

The archaeology team started digging in September and will spend two more months investigating the site which will eventually be home to a new school for 120 children from Warden Bay.

The children currently travel to



DISCOVERY: One of the artifacts uncovered

Eastchurch to attend school. A planning application has been submitted and a decision is expected early next year.

Mr Margate said: "Kent County Council commissioned Archaeology South East to investigate land at Leysdown Road which was earmarked for a new children's school."

"It is usual for the council to ask us to investigate land if they believe it to be archaeologically significant."

We dug preliminary trenches and the find was substantial so we proceeded to a full excavation of the site."

For information on the Warden Bay dig telephone Sam Emery on 01273 426830 or email fau@ucl.ac.uk.

• Email yoursrale@kosmedia.co.uk

yoursrale
NEWS IN BRIEF

Three-hour search for hoax 'suicide' caller

A SHEERNESS Lifeboat and RAF Helicopter were involved in a three-hour search and rescue operation that turned out to be a hoax suicide call.

RNLI Sheerness Inshore lifeboat was launched at 11.13pm on November 26 after receiving information that a female had jumped from Rochester bridge.

An RAF rescue helicopter was scrambled from Wattisham to search the area together with the onshore coastguard. RNLI Inshore returned to shore after searching the waters for more than three hours.

A spokesperson for the Martime and Coastguard Agency said: "Police received a call at 10.53am made from a phone box by a female who said she was going to commit suicide and jump off the bridge."

"Police on the ground went to the phone box and bridge with sniffer dogs and emergency crews, a RAF helicopter and the onshore coastguard who all searched for more than three hours."

"The search concluded that the call was a hoax. Certainly if someone had jumped in the river a body would have been found by now."

Listening to concerns

POLICE will hold an open surgery on the Isle of Sheppey where people in the community can talk about their concerns.

Police community support officers Terry Hanlon and Shaun Rendall along with members of Swale council neighbourhood team will be at the Lighthouse cafe in Hope Street, Sheerness on December 3 from 10am.

To find out more information contact www.kent.police.uk.

Man on theft charge

POLICE have charged a man and cautioned another following the theft of a car stereo and a satellite navigation system in Kemsley.

Christopher Shaun Cooper of Cavell Way, Sittingbourne, was charged with theft from a motor vehicle following a break in at Grovehurst Road on September 10.

He was bailed to appear at Sittingbourne Magistrates on December 7.

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Businessman fights to keep high street alive



ALL CHANGE: Woolworths in Sittingbourne is now a pound shop while the Faversham store is thriving as Mr Bains BK Homeware. However, the Sheerness store remains empty (above)

ONE year after the collapse of Woolworths, stores across the region lie empty or taken up by pound shops because supermarket giants have squeezed town centres dry.

That is the opinion of an entrepreneur determined to maintain the Faversham business whilst Woolies in Sheerness remains empty, and the Sittingbourne store trades as a pound shop.

City lawyer Parminder Bains took a career break to save the store in Faversham town centre and he believes the success of the shop, now trading as BK Homewares, will rest heavily on the containment of supermarket giants and the loyalty of the community.

He said: "Woolworths store in Faversham was very popular, but was restricted because the

■ BY JILL HURST

range of goods it could offer was controlled by head office. We can be more flexible.

"However, the success of shops trading in the town centres relies on supermarkets being contained. If Tesco or Morrisons were given an extra 10,000 sq ft they'd eat up my range and I'd be out of business."

"It's as simple as that. You have to be able to offer something different at a good price."

"Effectively this is why so many Woolworths in Swale remain empty or taken over by pound stores. Small retailers simply can't afford to compete with the big stores."

"Unless Faversham town centre is protected it will end up like Sittingbourne or Sheerness."

Mr Bains's warning comes after Sainsbury's

applied to open what would be the third supermarket in Faversham. Tesco and Morrisons already trade in the town and Sainsbury's hope to open a store in 2010.

Sainsbury's chief financial officer admitted they had proactively chased the Woolworth trade.

Darren Shapland said: "In things that Woolworths used to do well, wraps, stationery, children's clothing and toys, we have stepped up significantly to take advantage."

Mr Bains said he would fight to stay in the town.

He said: "We offer tens of thousands of lines, many of which you can't get elsewhere."

"We will always try to source an item for customers and offer a free delivery service for purchases over £25. With the help of the community we hope to continue trading for a long time."

• [Email yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk)

Barn fire leaves family homeless

A FAMILY has been left homeless after firefighters were unable to save their converted barn house in Teynham.

Emergency services were called to the property in Lower Road at 4.20am on Thursday, November 26, but were unable to stop the blaze from completely destroying the house.

Firefighters from Teynham and Faversham together with a water unit took more than four hours to contain the fire and struggled to save two cars parked at the house.

The two-storey building was being renovated as a home for a couple and their son. They had been staying in a mobile home while building work was completed.

The victims are being cared for by the Red Cross Victim Support Unit. The cause of the fire is not known.

Canaries stolen

A BIRD thief broke into a shed in a Sittingbourne garden and stole 23 canaries.

The birds were taken from an aviary at the property in Windmill Street between 11.30pm on November 11 and 7.30am the next day. Two white and eight grey canaries were stolen. Also taken were one amber and 12 yellow birds.

Anyone with information is asked to contact on 01795 419182 or 0800 555 111.

Grant will be used to counter diabetes

■ BY JILL HURST

and their parents riding to and from school.

University lecturer Dr James Hopker said he hoped the project would build a lasting legacy in the area.

He said: "Research shows that even moderate physical activity contributes to a better quality of life, and this funding will start to give people more choice over what physical activities to do."

According to Dr Hopker the success of the scheme would rely heavily on the motivation of the community.

"By promoting health-related benefits, enjoyment and self-esteem that comes from being physically active we aim to broaden horizons for young and old alike," he said.

"We are aiming for long-term results, not only in terms of new equipment and better facilities, but in newly acquired knowledge and skills about healthy living being passed onto to family and friends."

"Ultimately the success of this project will be down to the Swale community itself."

• [Email yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk)

Neighbour's alert saves blazing flat

FIREFIGHTERS had to force their way into a building after being called to a fire in a top floor flat in Sittingbourne.

Emergency crews were called to the scene by a neighbour who became concerned after hearing smoke alarms in the property.

Two fire crews battled to contain the blaze that gutted the kitchen and caused smoke and fire damage throughout the flat.

Firefighters used thermal imaging equipment to search for any hot spots before leaving the property.

It is thought a faulty kitchen electrical appliance caused the fire.

No injuries were reported.

The property was secured by the owner of the block of flats once the fire had been contained.

30 to 60 year-olds the highest risk

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE that their body has started to be affected by alcohol."

The Big Drink Debate was organised by The South East Public Health Group and looked at how to tackle excessive drinking in Kent and the south east.

A drinks manifesto will be unveiled later this month.

A vote at the event, which took place in November, showed that most of the audience believed higher alcohol prices would help reduce the amount drank.

They also indicated that their biggest concern was not for young people, but for those aged 30 to 60 who drank at home.

Mr Bassett added: "If you are worried about your alcohol consumption then speak to your GP, or contact local alcohol service provider, Mount Zeehan confidentially on 01227 761 310."

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Police hunt motorcyclist after road rage attack

A MOTORCYCLIST shouted abuse and punched the car of a female driver in Kemsley during an attack of road rage.

The victim was driving a Nissan Micra near Lloyds pharmacy in Iwade along the main road at 6.30pm on November 19.

As she reached the first roundabout toward the A249 a motorcyclist pulled alongside and banged on her window.

Police would like to talk to anyone with information particularly the driver of a car waiting behind the woman at the roundabout. Call Sittingbourne police on 01795 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Teenage girl hit by car suffers head injuries

A TEENAGER was injured after being hit by a car on the Isle of Sheppey.

The girl, 13, suffered head and leg injuries after a collision in Halfway Road at 7.45am on Thursday, November 26.

She was taken to Medway Maritime Hospital. Her injuries were not life threatening. The driver of the car suffered facial and leg injuries. He did not require hospital treatment.

BMW catches fire after accident on motorway

A CAR burst into flames after crashing on the London-bound carriageway of the M2 last week.

Emergency services were called to the fire which started when a BMW hit the central reservation between junctions 6 and 7, at 4.40am on Wednesday, November 25.

The carriageway was closed and reopened at 5.29am. No one was hurt.

Town lit up to launch Christmas festivities

CHRISTMAS lights in Sittingbourne were switched on marking the official run-up to festivities in the town on Saturday.

Father Christmas left the High Street at 4pm and made his way through the town to Central Avenue where the official lighting up took place at 5pm.

The event was organised by the Sittingbourne Lighting Association.

Teamwork 'is best way to improve area'

NIGHTMARE neighbours, graffiti and anti-social drinking are just some of the issues better dealt with by working together.

Both Swale borough commander Ch Inspector Tony Henley and the new chief executive of Swale council Abdool Kara, back a partnership approach to tackling crime in Swale.

Mr Kara said: "It makes sure there are no gaps in services, especially when it isn't immediately clear if something is a police issue or a council issue. Rather than let it slip through the net, we respond together."

A Community Safety Unit recently opened in the council building in Sittingbourne, which Mr Kara describes as "the engine room of our partnership".

Staff from the police, council and housing associations meet daily to identify problems.

Mr Kara said: "Together we are better able to connect with, listen to and engage with local communities when it comes to crime and anti-social behaviour."

Ch Insp Tony Henley, from Swale Police, said: "It gives us an opportunity to solve problems rather than just suppress them."

"For example, if there is a problem with anti-social behaviour, an initial response will in all likelihood mean sending in a neighbourhood policing team who I would expect to deal robustly with incidents as they happen."

"However the longer-term solution may involve working with a local housing team who have powers to deal with tenants who make other people's lives a misery."

"This tactic was used recently when Amicus Horizon used evidence gained by the police to evict some anti-social tenants from their house in Faversham. The judge in the case complimented Swale council, Amicus Horizon, the police and residents for working together."

Graffiti is another problem the police and council have joined forces to combat. Council street wardens quickly remove the graffiti, but also photograph and log the material so when offenders are arrested they can be linked to other similar offences. The CSU has also teamed up with the probation service to use



PAYBACK SCHEME: The council and police are working together to crack down on graffiti in the borough

the community payback scheme which makes offenders help clean the mess up.

The agencies have worked together to tackle alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour in Sheerness. Chief Inspector Henley said: "The council introduced an alcohol control zone throughout the town. This gives us the power to seize alcohol from anyone who is behaving anti-socially."

My officers have taken full advantage of this power making 170 such confiscations in August alone. The council have also introduced Alcohol Control Zones in Leysdown and Warden as well as Sittingbourne. They are also currently consulting with Faversham residents about the same issue."

Both Mr Kara and Chief Inspector Henley realise their work is far from done, but are encouraged by the positive results that have been achieved by their staff in the recent months.



Booze control zone planned

AN alcohol control zone could be introduced in Faversham in an effort to combat drink-related problems in the town.

Consultation on restricted booze areas will take place until December 31 and comes after residents complained about nuisance drinkers and anti-social behaviour.

If it is introduced the Faversham control zone will follow the lead of Sittingbourne, Sheerness and Leysdown.

Swale council safety officer Charlotte Hudson said: "Having seen the success that we had in Sittingbourne and on Sheppey it is right that we have an area in place in

Faversham. It is so important that everyone can enjoy the benefits of a vibrant town centre without having to endure disorder or the behaviour of people who have consumed too much alcohol."

"The powers are not intended to disrupt peaceful activities and do not make it a criminal offence to consume alcohol within the zone. However, if an individual refuses to stop drinking when asked to by police, penalties include arrest and fines up to £500."

A consultation meeting will take place at Faversham town council offices on December 21.

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MOVIE HERO: Burt Lancaster starred as the Birdman of Alcatraz Robert Stroud, who is pictured right

'Birdman' lifer facing loss of beloved budgie

A PRISONER due to be transferred to another jail claims his human rights have been infringed after warders said he would have to ditch his beloved budgie.

Convict Paul Brown has hit out at "cruel" prison officers who told him there would be no room for his pet.

Brown, a prisoner at Swaleside prison on Sheppey, has launched an official complaint.

He said: "I have had my budgie for more than five years and any pet owner will tell you how close you become to your animal. To be told you have to abandon it is very distressing, cruel and stressful."

The con, who is serving a life sentence, is said to have been inspired to get a budgie after watching the film Birdman of Alcatraz.

Starring Hollywood icon Burt Lancaster, the 1962 movie tells of real-life double murderer Robert Stroud, who befriends an injured sparrow after finding it in the exercise yard of the notorious island jail.

The killer then becomes a world authority on birds as he reads up about his winged friend during his 53-year sentence.

An insider at the category B jail, which houses 778 inmates with roughly half doing life sentences, said fellow lags have nicknamed Brown "the birdman".

■ BY KEVIN O'SULLIVAN

The source said the potential loss of his pet had left him devastated.

The source said: "He's absolutely gutted. He's had the little thing for ages and he talks to it all day. He's a bit of a loner so the budgie has been ideal company for him.

"He's devastated at the prospect of losing the little fella – he's even claiming his human rights are being infringed."

Brown even wrote to prison magazine Inside Time to ask for advice on national policy on budgie ownership when transferring between different category establishments.

It is thought he is due to be downgraded to a Category C jail. According to prison rules lifers are the only category of inmates who are allowed to keep pets, but a spokesman for the Ministry of Justice said there were a number of potential factors why he might not be allowed, including problems paying vet bills and health and safety.

The spokesman said: "The policy is set out in Prison Service Order 1250, Prisoners Property. Any pet that a prisoner is permitted to keep is entirely at the discretion of the prison governor. If Mr Brown wishes to take his pet when he is transferred to a category C prison, he will have to submit a request to the Governor."

Centre's search for a Christmas star

ONE SPECIAL child will receive a Christmas Star award following the launch of a competition by The Forum shopping centre.

The centre has launched an appeal to find a child who has shone through in the face of adversity, and centre manager Allen Forder is appealing for nominations.

Last year's Christmas star, was Kyle Gamble, pictured. Nominations should be emailed to forum@pmwcom.co.uk or posted to Forum Christmas star competition,



c/o PMW Communications, Stane Court, Stane Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9HP, by December 14.

yoursawale NEWS IN BRIEF

Tree-planting record bid

NATIONAL tree week will be celebrated in Swale with the planting of 500 trees on the Isle of Sheppey.

Swale council is encouraging the community to get involved and turn up to the event at Rushenden Hill with a spade or a fork between 11am and noon on Saturday, December 5.

The project has been organised by the National Tree Council and BBC's Breathing Places Tree O'Clock scheme and will attempt to break the Guinness world record for the most trees planted in one hour.

It is the 35th year of the scheme, and according to the Government's forestry commission, the trees will help to soak up carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Swale council officer Graeme Tuff said the event would help to create a cleaner, greener Swale.

Street's festive light show

A GROUP of neighbours on the Isle of Sheppey will be lighting up their street when they turn on their Christmas lights.

The annual event on, in Foxley Road, Queenborough will take place at 7pm on December 5.

Music will be provided by the St John's band and hot dogs and burgers will be on offer. Even Father Christmas will leave his workshop for a couple of hours to attend.

Organisers encourage fancy dress and ask visitors to park away from the road.

Fury at plan to cut benefit

CONSERVATIVE parliamentary candidate Gordon Henderson has hit out at Government plans to scrap non-means tested allowances for the elderly.

Mr Henderson claims the Government's proposal to create a unitary national care benefit system will result in thousands of pensioners across Swale losing the attendance and disability living allowances.

He said: "Pensioners will each lose an average of £3,400 under a scheme that would affect over 3,000 pensioners in Sittingbourne and Sheppey. The Government has chosen to penalise one of the most vulnerable groups in our society."

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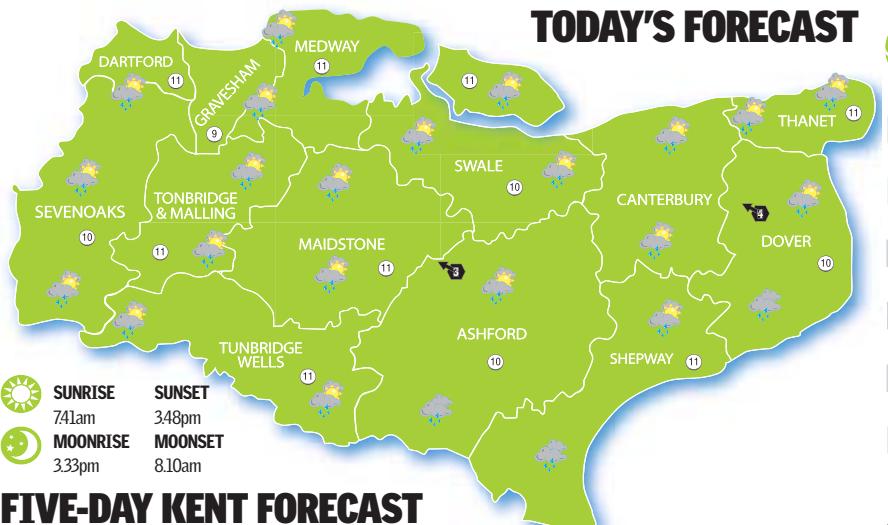
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Chatham	Saturday	2:37pm	6.3m
	Sunday	3:26pm	6.2m
Dover	Saturday	12:46pm	6.6m
	Sunday	1:42pm	6.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	12:42pm	7.8m
	Sunday	1:28pm	7.6m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:16pm	5.1m
	Sunday	2:12pm	4.9m
Sheerness	Saturday	2:27pm	5.9m
	Sunday	3:16pm	5.9m
Whitstable	Saturday	2:37pm	5.4m
	Sunday	3:26pm	5.3m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	
Ashford	8°C	11°C	9°C	9°C	10°C	Gravesend	7°C	11°C	10°C	10°C
Canterbury	8°C	11°C	9°C	9°C	9°C	Maidstone	7°C	11°C	10°C	9°C
Chatham	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C	10°C	Ramsgate	8°C	11°C	9°C	9°C
Dartford	7°C	11°C	10°C	10°C	10°C	Rochester	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C
Dover	8°C	10°C	9°C	9°C	8°C	Sevenoaks	6°C	9°C	8°C	7°C
Faversham	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C	10°C	Sittingbourne	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C
Folkestone	8°C	10°C	9°C	9°C	8°C	Tonbridge	7°C	11°C	9°C	9°C
Gillingham	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C	10°C	Tun Wells	7°C	11°C	9°C	9°C

**AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY**

Amsterdam	6°C	Madrid	9°C
Athens	19°C	New York	11°C
Barcelona	13°C	Paris	7°C
Beijing	11°C	Rome	18°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	19°C
Cape Town	21°C	Tenerife	23°C
Cardiff	6°C	Tokyo	10°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	10°C
Hong Kong	22°C	Warsaw	7°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	14°C

Pugin's restored gem awaits new purpose

A "STUNNING" church building in Sittingbourne is going to waste, despite thousands of pounds being invested in its restoration.

More than £80,000 has been spent on preserving St Catherine's Church in Kingsdown and the Church Conservation Trust wants to see it filled with people once again.

**HISTORIC:** St Catherine's

"St Catherine's is simply stunning," Mr Wyatt said. "It could serve a purpose for the communities that surround it, for educational visits, concerts or meetings."

"Considering its architectural and historic value, it would be a crying shame for it to remain empty. There is no reason why it should not be welcoming people on a regular basis."

St Catherine's is the only remaining complete Anglican church to have been designed by Catholic architect Edward Pugin. It was built in 1866 and is still largely as Pugin intended.

Conservation trust official John Vigor said: "We want people to visit the church and help us look after it. We have spent a considerable amount on it, now we want to see people benefiting from it."

"It's important that churches like this are accessible and have a place in community life, even though not as a place of regular worship."

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QUESTION & ANSWER

JANET HILL



Q & A

The new climate change officer at Swale council talks to **Jill Hurst** about how the job is going and what she has been able to achieve so far. She also reveals her love of fine wines and travel – and her dream job

Q Tell us a little bit about yourself.

A I am the climate change officer at Swale council. This is a new post and was only created in 2008. I have worked for the council since 2000 and was previously the energy efficiency officer so I was well placed to take over the role.

It's a new job and by definition it's ever changing. Climate change is gradually being prioritised by central government and this naturally filters down to the local authorities. Hence, we are constantly responding to new challenges and findings.

As part of my remit I am required to report to central government on Swale's performance in carbon emissions and how we propose to tackle climate change in our region. I projected Swale through the carbon trust's carbon management programme and I am currently compiling a climate change strategy, which is due to go to consultation next spring.

I also sit on the Consumer Council for Water's London and South East Committee which is the watchdog for the industry.

This is something I do in my own time and is not part of my job at Swale council.

Before I joined the council I lived and worked in Kenya for several years.

Q Swale gets a bad press sometimes - tell us something positive?

A There are lots of positive things going on in Swale. For example, using an interest-free

government supported loan we managed to get a cover for Faversham's outside swimming pool.

It was so popular that it paid for itself within four and a half months of being installed. In the process we saved over 35 tonnes of carbon.

Q What's the best bit about your job?

A The post is the first of its kind, and like climate change itself it is constantly evolving. I enjoy being part of such a new and exciting project.

Q And the worst?

A Trying to convince the non-believers.

Q If you could do any other job what would it be and why?

A I saw an advert for a wine adviser to travel the world advising our embassies and high commissions.

The actual post involved flying to all manner of exciting locations and checking out the existing wine stocks and advising on what to purchase.

Q What do you do in your spare time?

A I enjoy gardening and cooking. I like holding dinner parties and getting the

opportunity to entertain.

Q What was the last book you read - tell us a bit about it?

A Emma's War. It is the story of Emma McCune, a British aid worker in Sudan who married a war lord. She died in a car crash in Nairobi. Conspiracy theorists believe it was murder.

The book was interesting and it analysed the whole aid business in Africa.

I read Emma's War alongside a different version of the story which was written by Emma's mother, Maggie McCune.

Til the Sun Grows Cold addresses tells the same story from a different perspective. I guess the truth lies somewhere in the middle. There is talk of a film.

Q And the last film?

A Julie, Julia. It is a film about the life of the American food writer Julia Child and a fan called Julie, who decided to cook her way through one of her books.

Julie wrote a daily blog over the period of a year.

Q And theatre?

A It was an obscure production by the Anglo-Chinese company Yellow Earth. It was titled Wave and was about immigration.

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OPENS THIS WEEK!



Youth leader calls for curriculum change

■ BY MARIJKE COX

POLITICS should be part of the schools' national curriculum, according to the leader of the Kent Youth County Council.

Rhys George, 18, told Yourpapers that education was key for young people to have a better understanding of the political system. "We are the next generation," he said.

"It's so important that young people understand what's going on so they have a voice."

The youth council has been pushing for political education to be on the syllabus at school for year seven pupils and upwards.

Support

"We've got government ministers' support and have been speaking to people to see what we can do."

His comments came as the newly elected members of the youth council were announced yesterday, naming the young people who will represent youngsters across Kent.

There were 106 candidates battling it out for the 48 seats that were up for grabs and more than 30,000 people were expected to vote.

Last year, around 30,000 people turned out to the polling stations, but this year, with the highest number of candidates standing ever, it was predicted to be even more.

There were four seats available to represent each of the 12 district or borough councils and candidates could stand for election in the area they live or where they go to school or college.

The youth council is made up of 48 elected members aged between 11 and 18-years-old, who meet 10 times a year in the council chambers at County Hall in Maidstone.



Film star shows wild side in Kent

AWARD-winning Imelda Staunton has paid a visit to the University of Kent to celebrate the 20th anniversary of a wildlife institute.

The British star, who is famous for her many roles on stage and screen including Dolores Umbridge in the Harry Potter films, compered an evening of entertainment with her actor husband Jim Carter.

The pair are known for their love of wildlife and jumped at the chance of being involved with the celebrations for the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE).

DICE was founded in 1989 by Professor

Committee meetings are also held throughout the year to discuss ongoing campaigns and issues.

They work closely with officers and members of Kent County Council, letting them know about the concerns of the county's young people.

Members of the youth council also make up the UK Youth Parliament to take county matters to the national forum.

Already they have brought in a travel scheme called the Freedom Bus Pass which provides unlimited travel for young people in Kent for one payment per year of £50.

It proved so successful in east Kent it was rolled out across the whole county last year.

Rhys said: "We work closely with members of KCC and the leader Paul Carter who helps us with our aims.

"The youth council is apolitical though so we try and avoid getting too deep into politics when making decisions."

From next year, the youth council will also have more control over its own budget.

Currently, members are invited by different projects and budget holders within KCC to represent the views of young people and recommend how money should be spent.

But they recently advised on KCC's overall budget which will be decided next February and the youth members' views will be presented as part of that decision-making process.

Rhys said he is excited about the year ahead.

"I was elected a year ago and it's been really good fun," he said. "I'm looking forward to seeing some new faces – it will change the dynamics of the group."

"The new members will be really eager to go out and do things straight away."

Rhys, who lives on the Isle of Sheppey, said he always had an interest in politics, thanks

to his family.

"I was lucky they made sure I understood politics and what was going on in the country," he said.

"But not everyone has this. This is why we're pushing for political education at school."

"We're also trying to get the voting age lowered to 16 so young people have more of a voice."



RALLY: leader of the Kent Youth County Council, Rhys George, is campaigning to make politics a compulsory subject



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yoursraleblogger

Gary Wright questions whether giving aid to illegal immigrants in Calais is the right thing to do this winter



Is Kent Refugee Help making a difficult situation even worse?

ARE we really doing the right thing taking blankets and clothes to illegal immigrants waiting to cross to the UK from Calais?

This coming weekend, volunteers from Kent Refugee Help will travel to Calais to hand out clothes, sleeping-bags and blankets to immigrants in the French port.

I believe we should be asking 'Why'.

Kent Refugee Help is a registered charity which helps people who have been detained at the Immigration Centre in Dover.

On the surface the idea of crossing the Channel to make sure the assembled migrants are able to survive the onset of winter can only be seen as a decent act of human kindness.

Volunteer Kate Adams points out that it is a 'humanitarian crisis' made worse since the French authorities in September tore down the wooded encampment area known as 'The Jungle' where up to 800 immigrants lived – waiting to smuggle themselves into Britain.

But in September the French government

demonstrated it would play a part in breaking the illegal immigration chain that leads from Africa to Britain by making it more difficult to 'live' in Calais. So, why are British people going to Calais to help make it easier for illegal immigrants to stay there?

It is getting cold and the hand-out (funded with a United Nations grant and working with the No Borders Network) has been timed to coincide with Christmas – which will mean little to most would-be asylum-seekers.

These people are in France already, a fine civilised country. And if they care to retrace their steps, the Mediterranean coast is far milder at this time of year. I was in Calais a month ago and there was still plenty of evidence of young people being corralled by police and fed by volunteers.

And do not forget, the people of Calais have to suffer being the assembly point for immigrants with no interest in their community.

Sangatte was where 'asylum seekers' assembled between 1999 and 2002, just a few miles away. There the French Red Cross ran a camp for the assembled mass.

I visited it in 2001. Inside the giant hangar

it was seething – overflowing lavatories and overcrowding. I learned the people all had a common dream: a better life in Britain.

A lad in his late teens shared his heart-wrenching story of a tortuous four-week journey across two continents, hiding in ships and trucks, being met and moved on to the next leg thanks to \$10,000 paid by his father to people-traffickers. He was now just 22 miles from his goal. I understood his desperation.

But I also met people who lived in Sangatte, which has a population of just 800. They were outnumbered two-to-one by would-be asylum seekers. They were overwhelmed – and their homes, land and quality of life were, too. I understood their desperation.

I don't doubt the sincerity of Kent Refugee Help, but it needs to be careful. France, like the rest of the EU, wants asylum seekers to stay in the first safe country they reach and the chain of economic migration broken.

That means those organisations which rely on refugees for their work in Kent might be unnecessary. We must consider carefully whether we should be encouraging people to stay in Calais.

GET IN TOUCH...

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EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yoursrale@kosmedia.co.uk



TEXT: **SWALE** then your message to: 81800 (please remember to include you name)

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Gareth Arnold**, on 01303 817025 or email him

on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yoursrale.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yoursrale, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

• We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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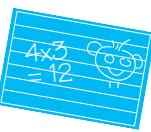
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**BREAK TIME****Athletes get boost thanks to bursaries**

STUDENTS at Sittingbourne Community challenge have been offered a sporting chance of competing at county level after the school announced its sports bursaries.

The financial support will enable the youngsters to pay for facilities, equipment and coaching. The scheme has already proved its worth with two youngsters reaching county level standard.

Chris Elliott, 17, a talented footballer received help towards the costs of training and attending fixtures. Alice Hudson, 13, was able to get archery equipment and became junior county champion.

Head of PE said Mr Carden said: "The staff and students would like to thank the local businesses supporting our growing number of talented sports performers we have in the county."

To find out more email dave.carden@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk.

Evening put pupils' talents centre stage

BUDGING starlets showcased their talent at Queen Elizabeth's grammar school as they hosted a performing arts evening.

Talented students treated the audience to a veritable feast of entertainment including ballet dancing, drama productions and a gospel choir.

A school spokesperson said the evening was a resounding success: "Spectators said they thoroughly enjoyed the event and were dazzled by a range of performances including a virtuoso tumbling routine and a belly dancing act."

School £55,000 better off for its 'have-a-go' attitude■ BY **JILL HURST**

KENT on Sunday public sector award winner Fulston Manor has encouraged other schools to "have a go" and make a difference.

Head Teacher, Alan Brookes, believes the Sittingbourne school won the award, together with a £55,000 marketing budget, because their school mantra set them apart from the rest.

He said: "Fulston Manor is a business enterprise school and we believe that everybody matters, everybody succeeds and everybody helps. Everyone is good at something. That may be an academic subject, a sport or an art. It doesn't matter what it is.

"What matters is that everybody has a go."

Kent on Sunday Managing Director, Paul Stannard said: "The aim of this award was to recognise a public sector organisation that demonstrated a passion for its work and would use a share of the £1 million advertising and marketing prize fund to improve knowledge of its service in the community.

"Fulston Manor School won because the strong, traditional values such as courtesy and respect that the school prides itself upon impressed the judges. The written submissions from the students were powerful and demonstrated a positive relationship between pupils and teaching staff."

The head teacher said he was shocked to receive the prize: "We were delighted just to be nominated so we were thrilled to win.

"We are a very popular school and we had an outstanding OFSTED report last year so we can't use the prize fund like any other shop or business would.

"We are a national support school and offer educational conferences, community work, evening classes and even IT classes for pensioners so we will use the money to reach the wider audience."

Having started at the school as an English teacher 28 years he believes the focus on people is an enduring quality: "It's a happy place and one which is people focused. We concentrate on the community first and fit things around them. We want everyone to succeed and that approach works."



WINNER: Head teacher Alan Brookes was delighted to win the Kent on Sunday public sector award

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

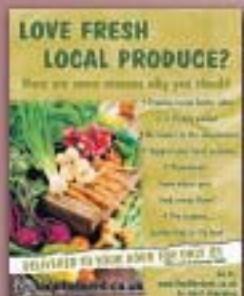
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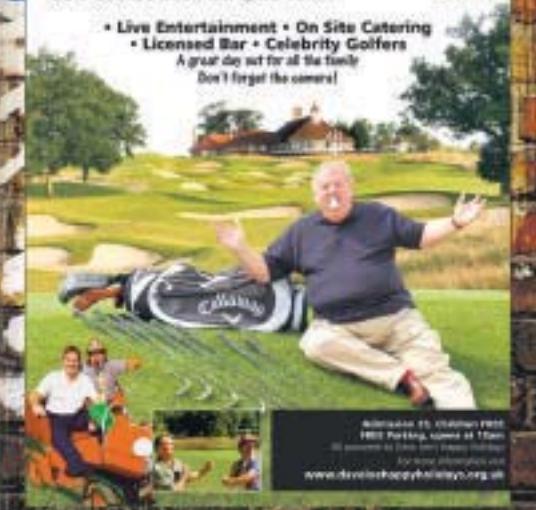


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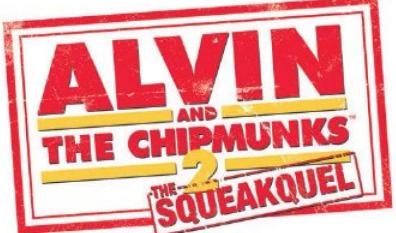
WIN Alvin and the Chipmunks goodies

ALVIN and the Chipmunks 2: The Squeakquel – out on the December 21 – brings back our favorite furry brothers, Alvin, Simon and Theodore.

Because of a freak accident involving Alvin and Dave Seville, they go to live with Dave Seville's cool cousin Toby and must enroll in school, just like every other kid.

School presents new challenges to these rock stars, like dealing with peer pressure, school sports and, of course, girls.

By girls we mean the Chipettes, who are man-



aged by Ian Hawke, the Chipmunks' greedy former manager who wants to turn them into the next big thing. At the outset, there is a rivalry between the Chipettes and the Chipmunks, but in the end they realise that they make great friends and a great musical team. KOS Media, publishers of this news-

VUE

paper, has managed to get hold of five great sets of Alvin and the Chipmunks merchandise, including an 'iPod hoodie', watch, fridge magnets, mini-recorder microphone and lots more.

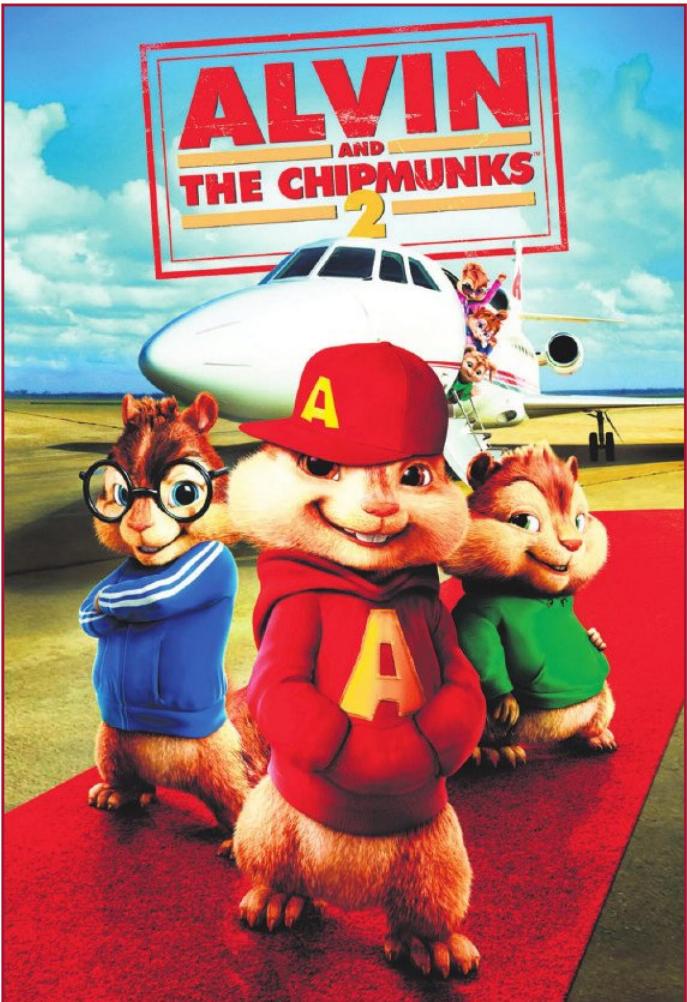
Plus, Vue in Thanet has kindly offered tickets to see Alvin and the Chipmunks 2: The Squeakquel to the first prize-winner drawn.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry, on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number, to: Alvin and the Chipmunks competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

The closing date is Thursday, December 10, 2009.

Question: When does Alvin And The Chipmunks 2: The Squeakquel hit the big screens?

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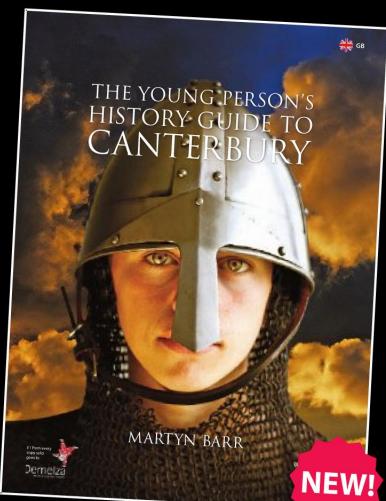
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TALK TIME

LT BRIAN MOORE

The Commanding Officer of Sheppey Sea Cadet Corps talked about how the organisation has captivated him for more than 25 years.



How did you get involved with Sheppey Sea Cadets?

I joined Sheppey Sea Cadets on my 12th birthday in 1983. At the time my older brother was a cadet, my father was an instructor and my mother helped out with fundraising so becoming a cadet came naturally.

How did you come to be Commanding Officer?

At 18 I asked to stay on as an adult instructor and I was quickly promoted to Probationary Petty Officer. From there I worked my way through the ranks and when my Commanding Officer stepped down last year I was thrilled to accept the post.

What's so special about the cadets?

Sheppey sea cadets are the only naval uniformed unit on the island and serving in the cadets teaches young people about responsibility and the respect.

A number of cadets will go on to serve in the armed forces, particularly in the Royal Navy. One of our most successful exports is Lee Marriott, who serves as the Navigating Officer on the RFA Fort Victoria. Earlier on in the year Lee was in the Gulf helping train the Iraqi Navy.

What keeps you going?

The cadets' motivation. They have been district competition champions for 8 years and also hold the Stephenson Trophy which is awarded to the best unit in the southern region. There are over 70 units in the south so you can't get much more motivated than that.

YOUR LETTERS

Ignoring BNP won make it go away

Resigned anger doesn't represent much of a stand from our potential political leadership against the openly racist BNP.

Why the BNP won't simply 'go away'

May I please respond to the letters referring to the BNP candidacy for the Swale area in the forthcoming general election?

These people are forgivably ignorant in their views, which result from the persistent attack of lies, misinterpretations and propaganda of the BBC and corrupt Lib-Lab-Con politicians.

BNP politicians and members do not lie, but tell it how it is. Yes, immigration is a very big issue in our society because it affects every aspect of our lives, from lack of school places to lack of jobs to an overstretched, under-funded NHS.

However, it is not our sole issue. Indeed there are so many things that our government will not tell the people and they are so afraid of people hearing our real voice that they attack because they know that the cat will be let out of the bag and will expose them as the real liars and fascists that they are.

The British National Party is the party with the real backbone and we are confident that when the true BNP voice is heard, and



LETTERS: Please send your letters in to us at Yoursrale, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR



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Beneath most stories on the www.yoursrale.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yoursrale.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Faversham, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and all the villages in Swale.

We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yoursrale before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

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the suppression of the people by our present government ceases, the indigenous British backbone inherent in our genes, will be released once again from its dormancy to bring this wonderful country of ours back to the

respected land it used to be.

Please look at the BNP web site, www.bnpl.org.uk, and read our policies and see that we are not racists but realists?

Matthew Maylum
address withheld

- I am sympathetic to the plight of the blogger's elderly relatives, but it still surprises me that anyone expects banks to act in a way that has anything to do with decency or compassion.

They are machines set up to

Banks need to work on personal service

Hear hear for the blogger who penned last week's rant about banks.

Their impersonal approach and total lack of understanding never ceases to amaze me.

Over 30 years banks have gone from having an accountable manager who you could at least talk to, even if he may not have been sympathetic, to call centres where you never speak to the same person twice and the part-time student on the end of the line hasn't got a clue who you are or what issues affect you.

And that's if you are lucky enough to have a bank which still bases its call centres in the same continent as its customers.

Older people definitely deserve more respect, as your blogger suggests, and should not be penalised for being unable to work to the banks' demand.

Mary Stephens,
By email

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George of the jungle takes on panto role

Star Trek legend follows in footsteps of pal Joe Swash

ALADDIN

Friday, December 11 to Sunday, January 3
 Central Theatre, Chatham



A VERY special star will beam down to Earth to appear in the Central Theatre's panto.

Hot on the heels of his great friend and I'm a Celebrity... co-star Joe Swash, George Takei will be entertaining Medway audiences over Christmas in Aladdin.

The former Star Trek actor will play the Emperor of China in the festive extravaganza, alongside Kent favourite Shaun Williamson and Phil Gallagher, otherwise known as CBeebies' Mister Maker, who is originally from Chatham.

Takei became famous as Mr Sulu in the long-running sci-fi saga and won new fans when he appeared on the ITV reality show, I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here last year. During his stay in the jungle, Takei won over viewers with his placid nature and was dubbed 'Gorgeous George' by Swash, the eventual winner.

It was Swash who persuaded Takei to tread the boards again, after he appeared in the Central Theatre's pantomime last year.

"I was back in England earlier this year and had dinner with Joe," Takei said. "He told me about the great experience he had and urged me to consider doing panto again.

"Joe raved about the wonderful audiences and the fun he had with the other actors. I was intrigued by the idea, but I had no idea that fate would have me following right in his footsteps, directly to the Central Theatre. I'm really looking forward to my first visit to Medway."

Also receiving top billing is Shaun Williamson, who rose to fame as Barry Evans in EastEnders and became something of a comedy icon following his role in Ricky Gervais' hit comedy, Extras. He has been extraordinarily busy ever since the first series aired in 2005 and recently filmed a brief cameo for Gervais' latest movie, The Invention of Lying.

Williamson returns to the Central Theatre to play Abanazar, following an absence of five years. He plays the villain to Phil Gallagher's Aladdin as they both search for the magic lamp and its genie who can grant wishes.

Gallagher presents Mister Maker, the arts and crafts show for under-sevens.

Also joining the cast are regulars Paul Burling as Wishee Washee and Claire Huckle as Princess Jasmine.

Ticket prices start at £12.50 for adults and £8.50 for children.

To book call the box office on 01634 338338 or log on to www.medwaypanto.co.uk.



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with
JANE CONNOLY
Email jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk

GRUMPY OLD WOMEN

Monday December 7
Marlowe Theatre Arena,
Canterbury

GET ready to grumble when a trio of Grumpy Old Women stomp into Canterbury next week.

Nothing escapes the disgruntled attentions of three top class moaners in Grumpy Old Women Live 2 – Chin Up Britain. This brand new show promises to be a hilarious journey through the irritations and annoyances of modern life, put into brilliantly funny words by three highly-talented performers.

Original grump Jenny Eclair has been grouchy all over the country, including the show's West End run and a bad-tempered tour of Australia. She is joined by former Coronation Street star Wendi Peters and comic actress Susie Blake to com-



plete the fearsome trio.

Get ready to receive top tips on how to make it through these dark days in true grumpy fashion, such as how to make your own beauty products. They also explore the benefits of fresh air, how to dance appropri-

ately and the indispensable Grumpy Rumpy Pumpy guide to safe sex.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £20.

To book, visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01892 530613/532072.

DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS

Saturday December 5 & Sunday December 6
Various venues, Rochester

ROCHESTER will be transported back in time to the Victorian age with the town's Dickensian Christmas.

The two-day festival is packed with events, performances, demonstrations, workshops, music and much more, offering festive entertainment for all the family.

New events for this year include Karen Rouse's Victorian toy workshop at Eastgate House, in which children can make the small toys that would have entertained Victorian youngsters, and a performance by Rainham School for Girls in which students use physical theatre, dance and music to explore some of themes found in Dickens' work.

CHRISTMAS AT LEEDS CASTLE

Running until Thursday, December 24
Leeds Castle, near Maidstone

ENJOY a magical Christmas when Leeds Castle hosts a variety of festive events throughout December.

Until Christmas Eve, rooms in the castle will be decorated in enchanting fairytale style.

Children can meet Father Christmas in his grotto on December 5 and 6, 12 and 13 and then daily from December 16 to Christmas Eve. Tickets, which must be pre-booked, cost £8 per child and include a gift. Call 01622 880008. A valid ticket to the castle is also required.

From December 20 to 23, Fairytale Christmas Tours will offer a magical experience as they take place in the evenings once other visi-



Icon Theatre retell the story of A Christmas Carol using puppetry, music and movement, while Scott Poleykett will lead a children's circus workshop and Mr Bonkers entertains with his comedy magic, balloon modelling and puppets.

Other highlights include

the fun fair at Rochester Castle Gardens and a number of colourful parades. On Saturday there will be a Christmas fair, run by the Friends of the King's School, Rochester, in the Cathedral Precincts from 10am to 4pm.

For full event listings visit www.whatsonmedway.co.uk.



Picture LEEDS CASTLE FOUNDATION

tors have left and feature fairytale characters.

Tickets cost £15/£10 and include mulled wine and a mince pie for adults, with hot chocolate and a mini Yule log for children. Young visitors can also meet Father Christmas for an £8 fee

including a gift. Availability is limited so book early by calling 01622 880008 to avoid disappointment. Key to the Castle tickets are not required for this event.

For more information call 01622 765400 or visit www.leeds-castle.com.

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SWALE LEISURE

Art studios the place to find unusual present

PICK up an unusual gift from the Polka Dot Contemporary Art, Design and Sculpture Studios.

The studios in London Road, Teynham, are hosting the Big Christmas Fair, which is packed with arts and crafts. The fair runs until December 20 and the studios are open from 10am to 4pm, Friday to Sunday. For more information visit www.polkadotac.co.uk.

Sing, play or just relax at club singers' night

BRING a song or an instrument and enjoy an evening of good company at Faversham Folk Club's singers' night.

Anyone is welcome to join the singing, play a tune or just listen at the Chimney Boy in Preston Street, Faversham, next Wednesday. The fun starts at 8.30pm and admission costs £1.

Tonight, two masters of folk, PJ & Peggy, are paying a welcome visit and tickets cost £9/£8. Call 01795 423674.

There's some monkey business at music night

GO wild for R&B when Bitten By Monkeys perform in Sittingbourne.

Find out more about the rock, soul and R&B band at www.myspace.com/bittenbymonkeys2008.

The band is at the Beauty of Bath in College Road at 9pm on Saturday. For more information about the venue call 01795 477415 or visit www.beautyofbath.co.uk.

Police Squad want you to accompany them

EVERY little thing they do is magic when The Police Squad perform their tribute act.

As the only Police tribute band in Kent, they are sending out an SOS for people to attend their gig at the Ypres Tavern in West Street, Sittingbourne, on Sunday. Get more information on the band at www.thepolicesquad.moonfruit.com. For information about the venue call 01795 423218.

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Dave Lee is Tinkerbell in this year's Canterbury panto. Search Peter Pan

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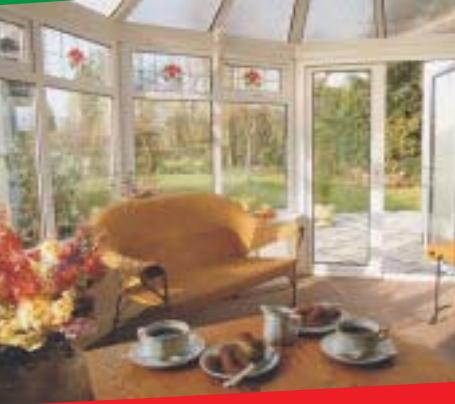
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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

THE IMPRESSIONS SHOW WITH CULSHAW AND STEPHENSON

BBC One, 9.10pm, Saturday

DOCTOR WHO: DREAMLAND

BBC Two, 10am, Saturday

TRICKY things to get right, impression shows.

Make a good fist of it and a unique place in the national consciousness could be yours, but mess it up and you look like a total saddo.

Jon Culshaw is not a supreme master of his art, like Rory Bremner, yet he has enough in his locker to justify a show of his own.

While he is less brutal than his rivals, his new effort, The Impressions Show With Culshaw And Stephenson, still manages to score a few hits.

While his attempts at Bruce Forsyth, Boris Johnson and Jonathan Ross fall short (why bother when others have them down so well?), others are very good indeed.

It may not be the best-known of his targets, but his Dominic Littlewood (the bald guy who crops up on The One Show dispensing money-saving tips) is inspired and could probably pass for the real thing.

The Michael Macintyre he does is also top-notch, while it's high time someone had a decent stab at David Cameron, who, as probably the next Prime Minister, must be the holy grail for the top impressionists in Britain.

Still, for every impression that hits the mark, such as Simon Cowell, there's another that falls woefully short, like his Adrian Chiles.

This is one of those shows that you can happily dip in and out of.

It's not a triumph, but if you enjoy this sort of thing, then tune in and be



CARTOON TIME: The BBC have now animated the time-travelling exploits of Doctor Who

prepared to snigger at much of what's on offer.

- The BBC is determined to wring every last drop of David Tennant out of Doctor Who before he pops his time-travelling clogs and makes way for the new guy, Matt Smith, next year.

He's been a tremendously popular incarnation of the Time Lord, if not one of the true greats, and now his animated persona has been brought to screens for children and geeks everywhere.

This animated series takes a lead from Star Wars: The Clone Wars in style if not in content. It's a harmless enough outing, but with the main series, The Sarah Jane Adventures, Torchwood and now this, you wonder if even die-hard Doctor Who fans are getting fed up with the overkill.

This six-part serial will be broadcast on Saturday – tell the kids.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

A CREATIVE project comes to fruition, prompting you to look around for the next big opportunity. Establishing a steady routine should be your first order of business. This means you'll have to spend less time on pleasurable pursuits and devote more energy to work.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

YOU could finally receive money you've been expecting for some time. Beware of spending it all in one place. If you're careful you can pay your bills and have a little left over for savings. Resist the urge to buy expensive luxury items, especially on credit.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

A FRIENDSHIP could be coming apart at the seams and there's nothing you can do. It's better to cut ties than force a relationship that has lost its purpose. Although such behaviour is contrary to your loyal nature, you need to break things off, even at the risk of seeming heartless.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU may have to cancel personal plans at the last minute, which makes you angry. You've been looking forward to this outing for some time, but a financial shortage requires you to find more work. A job opportunity related to teaching or writing is worth taking.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

IT'S time to leave a difficult domestic situation behind. Moving to a new place, finding a different roommate or selling a property are among the possibilities. This change will result in an emotional wrench, but that can't be helped. Find a healthy outlet for your frustrations.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

YOU'LL be in great demand this week, both personally and professionally. This is a great time to step out of your comfort zone. You've been blessed with a multitude of talents. If you feel as if you've been thrust into a pigeonhole, work your way out of it.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

YOU could finally get word regarding a job or promotion. Don't be surprised if you're given a lot more responsibilities in the days ahead. Fortunately, a loved one is poised to help you make this transition. It's a little nerve-wracking for a person like you to be in the spotlight.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

AN engagement, marriage or business agreement changes the course of your life. Two heads are better than one this week. Don't try to undertake a difficult task all by yourself. Relations with a neighbour or relative will be improved if you extend an olive branch.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

SIGNING a contract makes an agreement official, which makes you nervous. You're the sort of person who doesn't like to be confined by a lot of legal formalities. Unfortunately, you need to make some official promises if you're going to move up the ladder of success.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

BURYING your head in the sand is no longer an option. You'll be forced to face some painful truths regarding a female friend, relative or neighbour. Although it pains you to admit this woman took advantage of you, there's no other conclusion. Console yourself with hard work.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

A LEGAL decision could be rendered, allowing you to move forward with career plans. Although you may not like the result, at least you won't be kept awake waiting for the verdict. Besides, better opportunities await you. It looks as if you'll finally be able to make use of your talents.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

A TOUGH work assignment comes to an end, leaving you more time for your personal life. Plan to visit a secret hideaway with your beloved. Your new lover could make a lot more money than you. This financial discrepancy will create a feeling of inequity.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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WOMEN seeking men

MAKE IT LAST Slim female, 25, 5'10", long brown hair and blue eyes, caring and social, likes clubs, cinema, seeking a kind male, 30-45 for a relationship. Box 461558 **T**

MATCH OF THE DAY! Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5'12", a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 **T**

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT... Blue-eyed blonde, 27, 5'5", loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, male friend. Looking for a honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 **T**

LOOKIN' A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYES! 25yr old female, 5'8", medium-curvy build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 426464 **T**

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTM, cuddly female to enjoy the finer things in life, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931 **T**

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6'+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471 **T**

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 880343 **T**

A FAIRYTALE ENDING! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek, 5'8", short brown hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 **T**

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells, Box 308734 **T**

FEAST YOUR EYES ON... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5'3", shoulder length curly hair, I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possibly some long term relationship. Box 453039 **T**

WHAT YOU SEE... Young looking 36 year old, 5'4", brown eyes, slim, one daughter, hard working, very sincere and caring, genuine, GSOH, seeks similar male 33-43. Rochester, Box 460307

STARRY NIGHTS Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair, enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

HISTORIC MEETING? Mum of three, 36, long mousy hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 446093 **T**

I LIKE DRIVING IN MY CAR Honest, caring woman, 36, 5'15", slim, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest, have four children. I enjoy drives, horse riding. Maidstone, Box 456159 **T**

SEIZE THE DAY Loving female, 36, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **T**

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5'4", medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

MEND A BROKEN HEART Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopefully happiness, no time wasters! Box 908053 **T**

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983 **T**

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YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeking love, fun male, for friend/relationship. Box 901893

MAKING A BUBBLE

Lovely, glossy blonde, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys the arts, music and eating out, WLTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **T**

NOIES

Lonely, bored, blue-eyed female, 40, 5'10", slim, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573 **T**

TAKE A LITTLE TIME

Social lady, 41, 5'3", gosh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145 **T**

TOUGH BUT TENDER

Loving single, 40, likes clubbing but especially nights in with a scary film, seeking loyal, tough, tender man to share my life with. Whitstable. Box 461047 **T**

CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU

Professional female, 41, 5ft, brown hair/eyes, likes country pubs, walks, looking for a gent, 42-55, to share a happy future with. Gillingham Box 462538 **T**

BETWEEN US

Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking for white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900 **T**

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DEAL OR NO DEAL? Fit and active man, 52, 5'7", slim build, smart dresser, likes cycling, walking, theatre, poetry and film. WLTM a like-minded slim female, 53, 5'5" with gosh. Deal Box 45706 **T**

PREDICT THE FUTURE Honest guy, 53, WLTM nice woman, any age, I like to cuddle and am hoping to find friendship and affection. I like sport and socialising. Kent. Box 459457 **T**

MUSCLE WOMAN? GSOH, I'm a fit/active male, 53, 5'10", and I like animals, countryside, music (pop, classical), dancing, pubs, cosy nights, history. WLTM athletic woman, any age. Box 450691 **T**

ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD Intelligent good-humoured man, 53, 5'10", nice looking, loves history, countryside/nature, animals, theatre, music, meals and most things, seeks outgoing confident female for friend-ship/possible relationship. Medway/Kent. Box 870965 **T**

WITTY Active, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home/car, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things, seeks homely, warm, trusting female. Box 408508 **T**

GET HAPPY Easygoing guy with GSOH, 46, not bad looking, looking for someone to enjoy friendship, romance and maybe something more. Eastbourne. Box 461443 **T**

SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY 28yr old guy, 6ft, tall, fair sporty, romantic nature, likes the countryside, walking, the sea, travel, seeking a Kentish male companion of similar age to share their interests. Maidstone. Box 460816 **T**

PERFECT MATCH Mature, attractive lady, fair hair, brown eyes, in good shape, loves travel, theatre, sport, music, seeking the company of a culture, funny, adventurous male. Maidstone. Box 462250 **T**

ANIMAL LOVER Attractive lady, non-smoker, aged 57, GSOH. I enjoy walking, eating in/out, seeing friends, theatre, animals, and WLTM similar, non-smoking male. Box 452498 **T**

I'VE GOT THE GOLDEN TICKET Christian female, 57, looking to meet a nice man with gosh to go to the cinema and have fun with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 449225 **T**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS! Smart petite lady, 56, 5'4", tall, blonde hair, seeking a male for a caring and fun-loving gent. Box 446119 **T**

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, likes eating out, and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent. Rochester. Box 440686 **T**

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, 5'10", likes walking from Kent, 43, 5'10", likes bowling, eating in/out etc.

JUST IMAGINE Petite, blonde, 49, enjoys the social things in life, looking for someone genuine and honest, initially for friendship but then who knows? Tunbridge Wells. Box 869335 **T**

CARING & PROFESSIONAL Female 49, 5'14, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap. 48-55. Hastings Box 454569 **T**

MAKING IT STYLISH Easygoing, honest guy, 49, 5'10", likes walking, eating in/out, sees you're a nice person for a caring and fun-loving gent. Box 448793 **T**

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PROPERTY NEWS

Bovis Homes sees an encouraging sales boost

BOVIS Homes achieved 1,488 private reservations in the year to November 13, an 83 per cent rise on the comparative figure for the same period in 2008.

The group also says it anticipates legally completing around 1,800 sales in 2009, of which 1,500 are expected to be private homes, compared with 1,223 a year earlier, and about 300 social homes, compared with 594.

In addition, private sales prices have seen "a modest improvement" since the end of June and Bovis expects to increase the value of its existing land bank, while continuing to proceed with land purchases.

Also Barratt Developments reported it is shying away from the apartment market to focus on building houses.

According to the firm, banks and building societies are wary of lending on apartments because of oversupply and pre-credit crisis mortgage scams that involved property valuations being deliberately inflated.

Want a quick deal? Click on to Chainfree.com

A NEW website dedicated to selling homes not caught up in a property chain has been launched in an attempt to help people buy and sell realistically priced homes more quickly and efficiently.

Chainfree.com is a one-stop shop which means purchasers no longer have to spend hours surfing the net, attending auctions and visiting countless estate agents.

Chainfree.com chief executive Paul Smith explained: "All the properties featured have been realistically valued, in most cases by two other independent valuers, to ensure they are at the right price.

Because they are chain free, the purchase is likely to go through quickly without any undue delays, taking the stress out of buying a property."

More than 5,500 properties from across the country ranging in price from just £10,000 to more than £500,000 are currently featured and more than 850 individual branches have loaded properties onto the site including Spicerhaart brands Haart, Spicer McColl, Darlows in Wales, Haybrook in South Yorkshire and Felicity J Lord in London.

Spicerhaart corporate sales managing director Mark Pilling said: "The new website gives a dedicated portal for estate agencies selling chain free properties which, by their very nature, means they sell quickly."



PLAN YOUR VOTE: Residential property developers are less likely to get their planning permission through if they are applying in a Conservative-controlled local authority

The politics behind getting your planning permission

■ BY NICK AMES

RESIDENTIAL property developers are less likely to get planning permission for developments in Tory-controlled local authorities, according to law firm McGrigors.

They say developers who want to increase their stock should act quickly if they are in a Labour or Liberal Democrat district, in case the Conservatives win the next round of local elections.

Research by the law firm shows that over the last year Tory councils approved an average of 63 per cent of planning applications for major housing developments compared to 69 per cent in local authorities not under Conservative control.

McGrigors said this was significant as Conservatives control is most heavily concentrated in the south east of England where housing shortages are the most acute.

The research also found that 60 per cent of Local Planning Authorities with the lowest percentage of planning permissions granted for major housing developments are run by the Conservatives.

McGrigors warned that if the Conservatives increased their 51 per cent control of UK councils at the next election then it could become harder for developers to obtain planning permission. This, it said, meant Britain could face the risk of more severe housing shortages in the long term. The firm advised developers to make planning applications before the May elections in order to maximise the chances of obtaining consent.

Suzanne Gill, partner at McGrigors, said: "A slow and expensive planning approval process has contributed to a lack of new housing and,

in part, to the boom and bust of property prices.

"Shortages of new homes are not restricted to metropolitan areas. In many rural areas people looking to buy for the first time are

being priced out of their local community because of the lack of new, affordable housing."

"Developers are wondering how a change in government will impact planning policy. There is a concern that a tightening of planning regulations will impact on their ability to deliver projects and make housing a less attractive part of the construction market."

£15,000 towards a new Millwood home

SINCE housebuilder Millwood Designer Homes launched the third phase of its development St Augustine's Park in the village of Westgate-on-Sea, it has received a large amount of interest.

And with another home just reserved, only six now remain with three, four and five-bedroom houses available.

As an early Christmas present, Millwood is offering the unique opportunity to receive a £15,000 discount voucher, which can be used when buying one of the fantastic designer homes that remain.

St Augustine's Park offers a mix of properties so it appeals to young couples and families alike. And with the new high-speed rail link in nearby Birchington-on-Sea, which commences in December and takes you to St Pancras in under one-and-a-half hours, it is now also very convenient for commuters too.

Richard Elliott, Sales Manager for Millwood Designer Homes said: "Westgate-on-Sea is a wonderful village that has evolved over the years, offering a variety of shops and conveniences, as well as a good selection of restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs. It is a great place for families as there



are several reputable schools in the area, including King Ethelbert's School which is less than a mile from the development. However, as only a few homes now remain, I would urge people to come and visit this stunning development as it really is an opportunity not to be missed."

Westgate-on-Sea train station provides regular links to London Victoria in approximately one hour and 45 minutes.

Prices at St Augustine's Park start from £229,950 for a three-bedroom home, £239,950 for a four-bed and £245,000 for a five-bed.

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Canterbury 01227 454925
Herne Bay/Whitstable
01227 367161

EAR8109-FAV 10/2009 HP1286

* Applies to properties with a purchase price of up to £175,000.00 provided completion is effected by 31st December 2009.

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- lounge with inglenook fireplace

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Faversham | Price Range: £285,000-£295,000

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- Shower Room, Period Features, Garden

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- Three Receptions
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Sittingbourne | Price Range £210,000-£230,000

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Sheerness | £115,000

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- Approx. 80' Rear Garden

SHEERNESS OFFICE | 01795 664651



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Sheerness: 01795 664651

Sittingbourne: 01795 427272

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- Three Receptions. Cloakroom.
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- lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom. garden with decking

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- ideal as a first time buy or young family. Allocated parking. Garden.

OIEO £135,000

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Warden Bay

- Three Bedroom End of Terrace
- Double Glazing/ Central Heating.
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces

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Sittingbourne

- two bedroom bedroom terrace
- garden Excellent value
- ideal first purchase or investment.

£119,995

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Sittingbourne

- Attention all first time buyers
- two bedroom. two receptions.
- Double glazing. Cellar. garden.

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Sheerness

- Three bedroom terraced house.
- Close proximity to local amenities.
- Ideal first time buy.

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Minster On Sea

- Two bedroom holiday home
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MOTORS NEWS



Five-star Astra given lift with safety ratings

VAUXHALL'S eagerly-awaited all-new British-built Astra has received a major lift ahead of its showroom debut on 11 December.

The sixth generation of the family hatchback secured a maximum five-stars in the newly-upweighted Euro NCAP safety test. The Astra result included the most points ever awarded in the category for the new car's active head restraints, which protect against whiplash – the most common occupant injury suffered when a car is struck from behind.



Blue and white legend of Gordini makes return

RENAULT has preferred the 'Williams' and 'Renaultsport' labels to glamorise performance models yet ignored a motorsport name from the past – Gordini.

Amédée 'The Sorcerer' Gordini developed his own racing stable and Grand Prix cars before being hired by Renault in the mid-1950s and lending his name to many road and racing classics before the branding disappeared around 1980.

The name plus its famous blue and twin white stripe racing livery will be revived next year though by Twingo (pictured) and Clio Gordinis next year.



Nissan shows that cool car is hip to be square

NISSAN is hyping interest in its new Cube in the hope it can become a cult car like the Fiat 500 and BMW Mini.

It already enjoys that status in its native Japan and UK customers can judge whether a car can be cool as well as square when it arrives here in January.

It defies categorisation, but is closest to being an MPV with a huge cabin allowed by a long wheelbase that has moved the wheels to the extremities of the cubic design.



THE WAY AHEAD?: Although not a stunning car to drive, Honda's petrol-hybrid the Insight is cheaper than its arch-rival the Toyota Prius and should average well over 60mpg

Honda gives an insight into future of motoring

ROAD TEST HONDA INSIGHT

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

financially against the above rivals. It also undercuts its Prius arch-rival (from £18,590), though you still pay £35/road tax as CO2 emissions are not low enough to reach the free zone.

Expect it to be bulletproof too, with Honda stating the batteries will outlast the car itself.

A genuine five-seat cabin with flat rear floor means the centre back passenger does not feel cramped and a 408-litre boot also beats most rival family hatchbacks, but falls short of the slightly longer Prius (446).

It is not a stunning car to drive though and gearchanging is managed by a smooth continuously variable (CVT) gearbox, but we are entering an era of lower emissions and energy-saving tyres. At least you get an eye-catching dash, with aids to extract the best environmentally and financially from a new 87bhp 1.3-litre engine and 12bhp electric motor combining to offer 0-62mph in a respectable 12.5 seconds.

The latter looks pathetic on paper, but electric motors offer lots of grunt versus weight and virtually instantaneous power, not that the Insight encourages racy driving; whether you press the 'Econ' button for ultra-green mode or not you soon learn to use the throttle sensitively for a green glow of eco success.



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Technical & Production Manager – Theatre Royal Margate

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Salary £25,000 - £27,000 p.a.

Closing Date for applications: Wednesday 23rd December 2009 at 12pm.

Interviews: w/c 4th January 2010

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You may also call 01843 282956 or email: admin@theatreroyalmargate.com

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You will be joining us at a key stage in Turner Contemporary's development and will play a major role in developing and realising the gallery's programmes, profile and operating systems as we prepare to welcome our visitors.

To find out more about Turner Contemporary and to apply for any of the above roles, go to: www.turnercontemporary.org

Closing date for applications: **Wed 16 December 2009**
Interviews will take place week commencing 4 & 11 January 2010



Assistant Manager Required For Residential Care Home In Folkestone

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Closing Date: Wednesday 16 December 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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WINNERS: Faversham Swimming Club display their awards, alongside councillor Ted Wilcox, Mayor of Faversham

Youngsters pick up swimming awards

SWIMMING

LYDIA Scott scooped a hat-trick of awards at Faversham Swimming Club's annual presentation evening, held at the town's Alexander Centre.

Scott collected the girls' Higgins Trophy, awarded for the swimmer with the highest number of points won in all spheres of swimming. With 138 points, Scott was streets ahead of her nearest contenders, with even the combination of points won by second-placed Rebecca Crouch and third-placed Lucy Burchell not equal to her score.

Also returning to the Scott household were the trophies for most improved swimmer of

the year and water polo junior player of the year. Tom Grunwald, meanwhile, won the overall water polo player of the year award.

The boys' Higgins Trophy was shared between Marty Boorman and James Guthrie after both amassed 73 points each over the course of the year. Richard Catton and Nathaniel Bancroft filled the second and third-placed spots respectively.

Among the awards handed out by the Mayor of Faversham, councillor Ted Wilcox,

were prizes won in the age group championships which took place over two weekends in September.

Emily Westlake was victorious in the club's gruelling Skins event, while on the boys' side, the main prize went to Tom Walton, with Tom Pearce and Scott Kendall beaten into second and third.

Lucy Guthrie collected the Neame Trophy after being named club person of the year.

There were 17 new recipients of club colours, awarded for representing Faversham at inter-club galas, while six swimmers were handed Master club colours.

Picture: GORKOPCO



DOUBLE: Aaron Glass continued his irresistible form with two goals against Henley

Glass among the goals in Court win

HOCKEY

Core Court 3 Henley 0

GORE Court maintained their lead at the top of South Hockey's Premier Division Two with a comprehensive win over their old adversaries from Oxfordshire.

Aaron Glass once again stole the goalscoring glory with a brace to take his season's total to 24 – an astonishing return at almost three goals per game. Sandwiched in between was a fine strike by captain Paul Surridge as Henley made the long trip home, a well-beaten outfit.

Court dominated from the first whistle and Glass put them ahead in the tenth minute, a great reverse-stick shot giving the Henley keeper no chance. Rather than sitting back to protect their lead, Court stormed forward in search of a second and they found one moments later when the ball fell kindly for Surridge, the skipper pouncing to slam home the loose ball.

Adam Hart's pace was proving troublesome for the visitors and they went into the break relieved to trail only by two. Andy Nellies, who enjoyed a quiet first period, was called into action early in the second to pull off a number of good saves.

Just as Henley appeared to have gained a foothold in the match, their discipline let them down and three visiting players were shown yellow cards. The game was then put beyond them when a superb team move culminated with Henry Sparling finding Glass, who finished well to make it 3-0.

With Eastbourne losing 5-3 at home to Milton Keynes, Barnes seized their opportunity to go second and Court know their job is just to keep winning – starting with Saturday's Kent derby against fourth-placed Ashford.

Elsewhere, the ladies' 1sts escaped the bottom of East Hockey Division One South with a 2-0 win at Waltham Forest.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT
glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk

Luchford staying positive despite side's lack of form

FOOTBALL

■ BY STEVE TERVET

Faversham Town 0



Sporting Bengal United 0



FAVERSHAM'S winless run now stands at three games after they were held to a goalless draw by a much-improved Sporting Bengal side at Salters Lane.

The Lilywhites, having lost at Badshot Lea and Erith & Belvedere in their last two outings, were hoping to end their mini-slump in front of their own fans, but the chances which did fall their way were squandered and the visitors could even have snatched a winner.

Town manager Justin Luchford said his players had been stunned into action by the two defeats, but despite drawing a blank on Saturday, he felt the side were turning the corner again.

He said: "The Erith & Belvedere game was a bit of a wake-up call – we can't just turn up and win and some of the lads needed to be reminded of that.

Clean sheet

"I have to take the positives which are that we kept a clean sheet, we picked up a point and we're still unbeaten at home, so it's not the end of the world. We've stopped the rot after losing two on the spin but it would have been nice to get the three points.

"At the moment, we're struggling to find the back of the net and it's playing on the lads' minds a little bit. It's a confidence thing, when you're scoring goals they just seem to go in, but when you're not, you try to do everything perfectly and sometimes it doesn't quite come off."

Luchford, who went into the game without Dale Skelton, handed a Faversham debut to Michael Dodsworth with Dane Luchford playing in the hole behind Damian Abel and Buster Smissen.

Smissen has nine league goals to his name this season but has failed to find the net in his last four outings, and Saturday was to prove another tale of frustration for the Lilywhites' leading scorer.

Town captain Tom Hickman went closest to breaking the deadlock when his shot seemed destined for the top corner but his effort struck a team-mate and rebounded clear.

At the other end, Rob French had to be on his



STALEMATE: Faversham Town manager Justin Luchford insists he is not worried by his team's dip in form

Faversham Town starting XI



Subs used: Sinden (Smissen 70), Tanner (Souton 80)

mettle to deny Sporting's powerful strike-force on a number of occasions and Luchford was quick to praise his opponents.

He said: "They've beaten Erith & Belvedere, and people need to start realising they're not the same side any more. If they put that team out every week, they're going to score goals."

Faversham, who remain seven points clear at the top of the Kent League, travel to fourth-placed Sevenoaks Town on Saturday.

Bradbrook and Kayembe are back among the goals

FOOTBALL

■ BY PETER PITTS

Sittingbourne 3

Bradbrook 41, Richmond 88, Kayembe 90



Eastbourne Town 0



FOLLOWING two straight home defeats, Sittingbourne bounced back in emphatic style with a convincing win over Eastbourne Town at Bourne Park.

After a first-half of few chances, Tom Bradbrook, restored to the starting line-up, opened the scoring shortly before half-time and although it took until the last two minutes for the Brickies to cement their victory, the 3-0 scoreline was no more than they deserved.

The Sussex side made the brighter start, with Callum Harris and Adam Davidson both troubling Deren Ibrahim early on, as the Brickies took half an hour to register their first shot on goal.

Even when they did, they failed to trouble Ollie Barton in the Eastbourne goal, as Hicham Akhazzan drilled a shot across the face of goal and Billy Manners skied his effort high over the bar.

Colin Richmond, starting in an unfamiliar right-back role in the absence of the recently-



GOAL: Colin Richmond (right) scored the second of Sittingbourne's three goals in their 3-0 win at home

departed Femi Omogbehin, was unable to influence the game so Abbott reacted by switching him with Billy Manners and the impact was immediate.

When the ball fell the way of Bradbrook in the 41st minute, the forward made no mistake with his finish as the Brickies marked their improvement with a goal. Jimmy Bottle's tenacity created an opening on the left and his cross was nodded smartly past Barton by Bradbrook to send Abbott's side into the break with a 1-0 lead.

Eastbourne then missed a superb opportunity to level the scores early in the second peri-

Sittingbourne starting XI



Subs used: Kayembe (Bradbrook 60), McHugh (Horlock 78), B Abbott (Bottle 90)

od when Jack Dixon crossed to an unmarked Scott McDonald, but he sent his free header wide to hand Sittingbourne a reprieve.

Town should have been made to pay for their profligacy long before the end, and when Nick Reeves saw his header scrambled off the line, Elie Kayembe's effort cannoned off Barton and away to safety.

Finally the killer second goal arrived with two minutes to play, Richmond intercepting the ball inside Eastbourne's penalty area and rolling the ball home.

Ashley Grant then played in substitute Kayembe who ran through on goal before firing clinically past Barton to complete the perfect afternoon's work.

Sittingbourne hit the road on Saturday when they travel to Surrey to take on fourth-placed Walton & Hersham at Stompond Lane. The Brickies have won their last two away games, while Walton were on the wrong end of a 5-1 thrashing at league leaders Worthing on Saturday.

FOOTBALL



RENEWED: Gary Abbott's reshuffle worked as Tom Bradbrook started and scored against Eastbourne Town

Abbott's reshuffle paid off for Brickies

GARY Abbott believes Sittingbourne have rediscovered their swagger after home defeats to Dulwich Hamlet and Leatherhead had threatened to derail their play-off push.

The Brickies manager made changes for Saturday's game at home to Eastbourne Town and the reshuffle worked, with Abbott's side running out 3-0 winners.

Having been plagued by injuries and suspension, Tom Bradbrook repaid Abbott's faith by scoring on his return to the team and Elie Kayembe – the man to make way for Bradbrook – also got himself on the scoresheet late on.

Abbott said: "Elie's done well for us but he'd only scored one in seven games and as a striker, you're judged by your goals. That's why I dropped him because we need to be scoring more goals."

"We had loads of chances against Dulwich and we didn't take them so I thought it was time to tweak things a little bit. It's so important to put your chances away – we had one in the first-half on Saturday and Tom took it, which was the difference."

"Tom gives us a different option because he's good in the air which means we can get more balls in the box. We've got to be careful with him still, but he will start again this Saturday."

Sittingbourne's next opponents, Walton & Hersham, were beaten 5-1 at Worthing on Saturday and Abbott says the result could play into Sittingbourne's hands. Joe Dowley, having picked up five bookings, will miss the game, with Billy Manners and Colin Richmond expected to fill the full-back positions.

Abbott said: "Hopefully it will be a nice time to play Walton, they've just had five put past them and they'll know we're an attacking side."

"It was important to get the three points after two disappointing performances at home and we thoroughly deserved the win. I would have been happy with a 1-0 but to get the two late goals was brilliant."



BREAK: Sittingbourne try-scorer Sam Catlin (centre) bursts away with the ball against Gillingham Anchorians

RUGBY

Gillingham Anchorians 12

Sittingbourne 27

as Sittingbourne stayed positive.

Half-time arrived with the score 5-5, but a Mark Penny penalty early in the second-half edged Bourne into a slender lead which widened when centre Sam Catlin scored the visitors' second try 15 minutes later.

Tim Hold, who was excellent throughout, fed Matt Fender and Catlin finished the move in style. Anchorians replied when their prop stormed under the posts to score but Kevin Ford and Chris Nanson firmly nailed the Gillingham coffin with late tries to cement a fantastic win.

Skipper Scott Truss could even afford to hit the crossbar with a late drop-goal and Bourne travel to struggling Old Olvians on Saturday with leaders Dartfordians now firmly in their sights.

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Mark Stimson highlights why an extended FA Cup run is high on his list of priorities

LEAGUE TABLES

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Worthing	19	13	1	5	+20	40
2 Folkestone Invicta	17	12	4	1	+15	40
3 Godalming Town	16	11	2	3	+15	35
4 Walton & Hersham	17	9	4	4	+6	31
5 Croydon Athletic	15	8	5	2	+20	29
6 Fleet Town	17	9	2	6	+11	29
7 Merstham	17	8	3	6	+1	27
8 Chatham Town	19	8	3	8	-2	27
9 Ramsgate	16	7	4	5	+5	25
10 Metropolitan Police	18	5	7	6	+5	22
11 Sittingbourne	15	6	4	5	+3	22
12 Dulwich Hamlet	18	5	7	6	-2	22
13 Burgess Hill Town	15	6	3	6	0	21
14 Corinthian-Casuals	18	6	3	9	-4	21
15 Whyteleafe	18	6	2	10	+1	20
16 Walton Casuals	16	5	4	7	-3	19
17 Leatherhead	15	5	3	7	+1	18
18 Horsham YMCA	16	3	6	7	-15	15
19 Eastbourne Town	17	3	5	9	-9	14
20 Whittlesey Town	17	4	1	12	-23	13
21 Ashford Town	16	2	5	9	-27	11
22 Chipstead	16	2	4	10	-18	10

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Faversham Town	13	10	2	1	+22	32
2 Herne Bay	12	8	1	3	+10	25
3 Erith & Belvedere	12	8	0	4	+3	24
4 Sevenoaks Town	12	6	3	3	+8	21
5 Beckenham Town	12	6	1	5	+8	19
6 Erith Town	11	5	3	3	+7	18
7 Tunbridge Wells	12	4	6	2	+6	18
8 Hythe Town	9	5	2	2	+16	17
9 Greenwich Borough	12	4	3	5	+2	15
10 Sporting Bengal United	11	4	2	5	-10	14
11 Norton Sports	11	4	1	6	-2	13
12 Deal Town	10	3	3	4	-7	12
13 Fisher	15	3	2	10	-18	11
14 Holmesdale	12	3	1	8	-8	10
15 Corinthian	9	1	3	5	-12	6
16 Lordswood	11	0	3	8	-21	3

FIXTURES (Saturday): Ryman South: Walton & Hersham v Sittingbourne; Kent League Premier Division: Sevenoaks Town v Faversham Town



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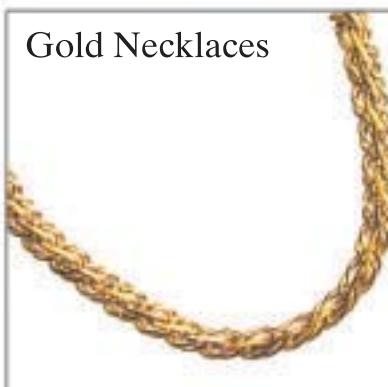
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